

Repeat Monitoring Requirements For Small Systems

WHO DOES THIS FACTSHEET APPLY TO?

ALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWSs) SERVING 1,000 OR FEWER PEOPLE that are required to conduct repeat monitoring when a water sample is **POSITIVE FOR TOTAL COLIFORM (TC+) BACTERIA**.

RTCR

What to Do?

Step 1

Collect 3 repeat samples after each TC+ routine sample

Step 2

Conduct required actions after collecting repeat samples

Additional RTCR information available on the RTCR website:

- Requirements for Small Systems on Quarterly/ Annual Monitoring
- Montana Seasonal System Guidance Document and Checklist Form
- Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems
- RTCR Assessment and Corrective Action Guidance Document, Level 1 Assessment Form, Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions Factsheet

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE:

RTCR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://DEQ.MT.GOV/WATER/PWSUB/PWS/RTCR](http://DEQ.MT.GOV/WATER/PWSUB/PWS/RTCR)

DEPT.: DEQ PWS PROGRAM

PHONE: (406) 444-4400

EMAIL: DEQRTCRLEVEL12@MT.GOV

ATTENTION!

April 1, 2016, all public water systems (PWSs) must comply with the RTCR.

STEP 1: COLLECT 3 REPEAT SAMPLES FOR EACH ROUTINE TC+ SAMPLE

YOU MUST COLLECT A SET OF 3 REPEAT SAMPLES AFTER EACH TC+ OR *E. COLI*+ ROUTINE SAMPLE. If one of the 3 repeat samples is TC+ OR *E. COLI*+, you will trigger an assessment.

Repeat Sampling Locations

You must collect at least 3 repeat samples at the locations described in your sample siting plan: (1) 1 repeat sample at the original routine location, (2) 1 repeat sample within five service connections upstream, and (3) 1 repeat sample within five service connections downstream of the TC+ sample. You may choose alternative repeat sampling locations on a situational basis—contact DEQ for more information.



**Site B =
1 repeat
upstream**



Site A = 1 repeat
Original routine
location that tested
TC+



**Site C =
1 repeat
downstream**

ATTENTION!

COLLECT ALL 3 REPEAT SAMPLES.

If you do not collect and analyze at least 3 repeat samples (for each routine TC+) you will have to perform a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment.

See the RTCR Factsheet: **Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions.**

IF YOU ARE A GROUNDWATER SYSTEM, REMEMBER TO ALSO TAKE AN ADDITIONAL SAMPLE FROM EACH ACTIVE WELL!

- SYSTEMS USING 4-LOG DISINFECTION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SAMPLE THEIR SOURCE.

Frequency & Timing

Collect all 3 repeat samples and well sample(s) **WITHIN 24 HOURS** AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION FROM THE STATE-CERTIFIED LAB OF THE TC+ SAMPLE RESULT. THE REPEAT SAMPLES MUST BE TAKEN NO LATER THAN 7 DAYS AFTER THE TC+ SAMPLE WAS TAKEN.**



- Remember the lab must begin analyzing the drinking water sample no later than the 30th hour from the collection time.
- If necessary, ship the sample overnight and refrigerate or ice the sample using “blue” ice (cooled to about 4° to 10° C). **Do not allow the sample to freeze.**

NOTES

*CALL DEQ on the same day you learned of an *E. coli*-positive (EC+) result, or by the end of the next business day if the result came in after business hours.

****Contact DEQ for an approved extension if logistical problems prevent collection within 24 hours.**

STEP 2: CONDUCT ACTIONS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF YOUR REPEAT SAMPLING

- **TC+** = Total coliform-positive or present; **TC-** = Total coliform-negative or absent
- **EC+** = *E. coli*-positive or present; **EC-** = *E. coli*-negative or absent.

You must **COMPLETE AN ASSESSMENT AND SUBMIT THE FORM TO DEQ WITHIN 30 DAYS** after you learned your PWS has triggered an assessment. See the **RTCR Factsheet: Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions** available on the RTCR website at : <http://deq.mt.gov/Water/PWSUB/pws/rtcr>

If Routine Sample Is:	And	Any Repeat Sample Is:	Action: What do your sample results mean?	Violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC-	The presence of total coliform bacteria in both your original routine sample and in your follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and your water may not be safe to use. 1. CONDUCT A LEVEL 1 OR LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. Contact DEQ for help determining which type of assessment is required. 2. NO PUBLIC NOTICE (PN) REQUIRED IF ASSESSMENT IS RETURNED ON TIME	No MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. 1. NOTIFY DEQ within 24 hours of receiving sample results 2. CONTACT DEQ FIELD SERVICES TO ARRANGE A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. 3. ISSUE A BOIL ORDER TIER 1 PUBLIC NOTICE .	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation*
TC+ EC-	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of total coliform bacteria in your original routine sample suggests there could be a problem and because repeat samples were not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use. 1. CONDUCT A LEVEL 1 OR LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. Contact DEQ for help determining which type of assessment is required 2. NO PUBLIC NOTICE (PN) REQUIRED IF ASSESSMENT IS RETURNED ON TIME	No MCL violation
TC+ EC+	&	TC+	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. 1. NOTIFY DEQ within 24 hours of receiving sample results 2. CONDUCT A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. 3. ISSUE A BOIL ORDER TIER 1 PUBLIC NOTICE .	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation*
TC+ EC+	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. 1. NOTIFY DEQ within 24 hours of receiving sample results 2. CONDUCT A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. 3. ISSUE A BOIL ORDER TIER 1 PUBLIC NOTICE .	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation*

NOTE

* You are required to provide Tier 1 (Boil Order) public notice within 24 hours in response to an *E. coli* MCL violation.